



THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

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Reviving the honor of Main Street!



Artist Impression of Plaza Nicky Habibe shows the beginning of Main Street up to the end is being revived to its former glory...

Eighty years ago Grandfather Nicky Habibe was one of our great commercial pioneers. In 1936 he built the first supermarket of Aruba on the Main Street. Something that was completely innovative for the island back then.

Daughter, Omyra, proudly announced... "we were the first with grocery carts, the first with self-service." She was born in the building and remembers exactly how it was when fresh fruits and vegetables would arrive on Fridays

from Miami.

However, over the years modern shopping malls sprang up between the main street and the Pier where the cruise ships docked. Tourists no longer had the need to walk in the hot sun to get to the Main street. With the growth of tourism, businesses grew but also faced fierce competition. The Main Street deteriorated slowly but surely. The intention today, however, is to bring the glory back to the Main Street. A Tram is expected to bring tourists back into the Main Street.

Habibe's cousin, Raoul Amundaray has decided to renovate the old Habibe building located at the end of the main street. He believes that with the renovations in the

Main Street and the promise of Tram transport for tourists, that a host of tourists will again be visiting the Main Street

He has sat down with architects to come up with a solution for the first floor of their building. Architects have worked on a beautiful entrance through which when one enters it will not be visible that the building has changed in any way. They will create a sitting area for those tired from shopping as well as the return stop of the Tram. There will be shaded areas, an interactive fountain and places to sit. The site will be named in honor of the man who years ago gave handouts to the poor in his truck as he moved through the barrios, namely....Plaza Nicky Habibe!

Police: Two arrested in Canada over Al Qaeda plot

OTTAWA (AFP) - Two foreign nationals have been arrested in Canada in connection with what federal police said yesterday was a plot backed by Al-Qaeda to derail a passenger train in the Toronto area. A bail hearing was set for today.

Charges filed against the two include conspiring to carry out an attack and conspiring with a terrorist group to murder persons, though very few details about the plot were revealed.

Assistant RCMP Commissioner James Malizia told reporters the suspects "were receiving support from Al-Qaeda elements located in Iran" but added: "There's no indication that these attacks were state-sponsored."

Malizia said the suspects are "not Canadian citizens" but declined to reveal their nationalities. One of the two men lived in Montreal for several years, he added, without saying which one.

Boston bomb suspect charged, faces death penalty

BOSTON (AFP) - Boston bomb suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was charged yesterday with using a weapon of mass destruction and could face the death penalty if convicted, the US Department of Justice said.

Tsarnaev, 19, also has been charged with one count of malicious destruction of property by means of deadly explosives, the DOJ said in a statement. He was arraigned in his hospital bed, where he remains in serious condition.

If the teen, a naturalized US citizen of Chechen descent, is convicted of the federal charges over last week's twin marathon blasts, which left three dead and 180 wounded, he could be sentenced to jail time -- or to death.

A first hearing in US federal court has been scheduled for May 30, an official in the US prosecutor's office in the city said.

"We've once again shown that those who target innocent Americans and attempt to terrorize our cities will not escape from justice," said US Attorney General Eric Holder.

The unsealing of the federal charges against Tsarnaev, who suffered a gunshot wound to the throat after being captured late Friday, came as White House spokesman Jay Carney said he would not be deemed an "enemy combatant."

"We will prosecute this terrorist through our civilian system of justice," Carney said, after some Republicans had said Tsarnaev should have the same status as the "War on Terror" detainees held at Guantanamo.

"The system has repeatedly proven that it can successfully handle the threat we continue to face," Carney said, adding that US law forbids trying citizens in military courts.



Investigators are meanwhile hoping to get answers from Tsarnaev about the brothers' possible motive, and learn whether other attacks were in the works.

Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis said Sunday that the brothers, who had been living legally in the United States for more than a decade, had more homemade explosive devices and appeared to have been planning more attacks.

He said federal authorities were trying to track down how and where the two suspects obtained firearms and explosive devices. An M-4 assault rifle was recovered in the boat where Dzhokhar was captured, the New York Times reported.

The brothers also apparently used two handguns and a BB gun in the shootout with police in the Boston suburb of Watertown.

The motive for the attacks remains unclear, and investigators are now probing a six-month trip made by Tamerlan in 2012 to Russia's troubled regions of Dagestan and Chechnya, and whether he was radicalized or trained there.

Meanwhile, Bostonians attempted to put the traumatic week behind them. The city honored the victims of the blasts with a moment of silence at 2:50 pm that was also observed by President Obama.

Venezuela threatens oil, trade measures in vote row with US

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela yesterday threatened to take measures affecting energy and trade if the United States resorts to sanctions in a row over the disputed presidential election in Caracas earlier this month.

The warning came amid a political crisis in Venezuela over opposition demands for a recount of April 14 election returns that gave President Nicolas Maduro a narrow win to replace the late Hugo Chavez.

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Exclusive interview with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

by Morning News special correspondent in Hollywood: Noel de Souza.

Few actors today combine the pure masculinity but wry comedic timing of the co-star of "Pain and Gain" Dwayne Johnson's latest film, scheduled to Aruba's multiplex this coming Thursday, April 25. It's based on a true story about a group of steroid-abusing bodybuilders engaged in kidnapping, extortion and murder. Dwayne plays a character named Paul Doyle. Special Correspondent to Hollywood for THE MORNING NEWS, Noel de Sousa, has the low-down on the upcoming film.

NDS: Doyle is saved by his faith from going down the wrong path in the film. Has anything saved you from taking a

wrong path in your life?

DJ: I would say my faith. I started getting into trouble very early in life and I had a hard time staying on the right track. When I was 14 I started getting arrested for doing a lot of things that I should not have been doing. But I did have faith at that time that things were going to get better. I had faith in my relationship with God and some adult figures in my life who cared about me; they saw the potential in me even though I didn't. When I was 14 years old we were living in Hawaii in a very small efficiency apartment and one day when we came home, there was a lock on our door-

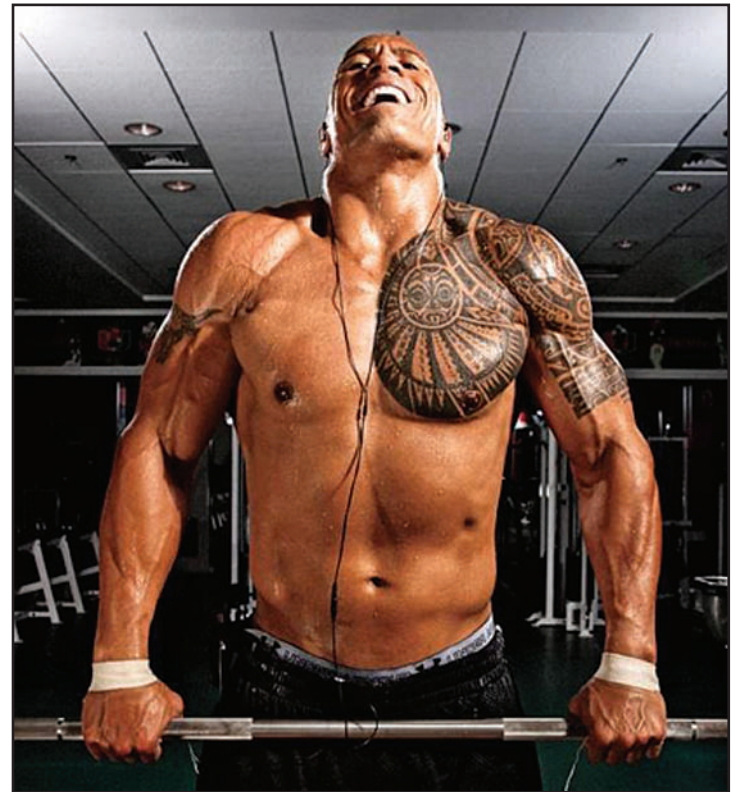
we were being evicted. We didn't have a place to live. I was living with my mom and I saw her break down and I thought to myself "I never want to see this happen again to my family" And I began to think about the heroes in my life, some of whom were in my family and some were on the screen: heroes like Harrison Ford and Arnold Schwarzenegger. I thought "well, those guys are successful and they built their bodies with their hands, that's what I could do", so I took up body building. It was a defining time for me.

NDS: You say you were arrested by the age of 14; could you tell me why?

DJ: It was every thing from getting into fights and for theft, I was struggling and Hawaii always represented a lot of struggle. I was adventurous on one hand and creating romantic moments in my mind, my interpretation of romantic with my girlfriend. I was challenging to my parents.

NDS: Adventurous and romantic seems like a good combination. Can you give me an example?

DJ: Well, my very first date was adventurous, I was doing a lot of things that I shouldn't have been doing in a way, but yet it wound up being a wonderful night. It was quite an adventure, because basically what had happened was my girlfriend and I were in a park; I was 14, we were hanging out and we had a blanket, it was my version my being romantic. We had already gone to dinner and the park was beautiful. We started to get a little romantic, we were kissing and then suddenly some very bright spotlights came on! They were jarring and it wound up being the cops. They were just checking if we were doing anything that couples shouldn't be doing at night in a park. They questioned us separately and when they determined that we



were not doing anything that we were not supposed to, they left and we continued to have fun.

NDS: Was she happy that night?

DJ: She was very happy that night. At least in my mind she was.

NDS: What does body building mean to you?

DJ: From a young age, as I told, I've just always equated that men who build their bodies could become somebody.

NDS: You now have the body and the looks, so how do you go about seducing a woman?

DJ: The body does get the attention of women, but as far as seduction? I have done a multitude of things: some charming, some absurd, some ridiculous, some sweet and kind to get the attention of women. But I've always found the best thing to do is just be direct and honest, "you look beautiful. I'd like to say hello to you, what's your name?" That generally is a good approach.

NDS: What is your workout regimen?

DJ: I train every day, 5 days a week, generally very early in the morning. If I have a shoot then I get up between 3:00 and 4:00 o'clock in the morning and I go train, then I have my breakfast and go on the set. On the days that I am not shooting I'll get up between 5 and 6 in the morning and work out. It anchors my day. It allows me to get into a space of Zen, peace, quiet, it's my meditation. It's my Yoga. It's Pilates, it's my hiking. It's whatever it is that you need, that's what that is for me and in addition to that it's just a way to get away from everyone for that brief moment of time.

NDS: and your diet?

DJ: I eat a lot, but fairly clean. I keep it fairly clean. I try to find a balance of protein and carbohydrates, fats and greens in every meal. I probably have around anywhere between 6,000 to 8,000 calories a day. It's a lot I know, but I'm never full, I'm always hungry.

Continued on page 5

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Aruban Piano Legacy Concert is next Sunday

Next Sunday, April 28th a special piano concert is scheduled to take place in the Cas Di Cultura. Piano giants like, Victor Camacho, Angelo Kock and other newcomers to the world of piano music, such as Kyle Winklaar, Mandy Villasmil, Terrance Green and Vanessa Chacon, will take the stage to delight the audience with their music.

The music promises to be varied by the renditions of the different artists and the evening promises to be unforgettable, according to the organizers.

Production of the concert is in the hands of Cas Di Cultura with Carlos Bislip directing the entire program. In Aruba, the piano has the longest history as the musical instrument used for formal formation. Musicians who have achieved high levels of musical skill have al-



ways been those who play the piano. Padu Lampe and Rufo Wever are two of the most renown, but there are others, to mention: Johnny Scharbaay, Victor Camacho, Armand Simon and Johnny Croes, just to mention a few of them.

In this Aruba Legacy Con-

cert, one of the objectives is to allow young people the opportunity to present their talent in a professional setting so as to stimulate other young people to improve themselves so that they can later also present in the Cas Di Cultura one day.

The pianists to perform in this Concert under the direction of Carlos Bislip is Victor Camacho, who has a long history as a pianist on Aruba and considered the "nestor" of this group. The youngest player is 16 year old Vanessa Chacon. Vanessa has been playing the piano since her 9th birthday. After listening to Kyle Winklaar play a Burgmuller piece, she discovered that she likes fast tempo and difficult musical pieces.

Continued on page 4

Small Business Week continues to stimulate our economy



Last week the Minister of Economic Affairs had the honor of cutting the ribbon to a new business, ECKRO Administration and Consultancy located in the Tanki Leendert community. Jessica Rosel and Michael Eckmeyer entered into a joint venture to offer administrative and consulting services to micro and small businesses. They believe that there is a certain market for this.

The steps to enter into a partnership and establish a new NV, which they call ECKRO was not without its hassles. Last Tuesday Jessica Rosel, sole proprietorship of "Rosel Administration and Consultancy" celebrated nine years. Last year she contemplated whether to expand or start a brand new business.

However, after attending several lectures of the "Small Business Week" organized by the government, she became motivated and inspired as well as convinced that the time had come to take the next step as an entrepreneur.

Michael Eckmeyer on the other hand was employed at Valero. He has 21 years of experience in administration. When Valero closed down the refinery, he was one of those that got laid off. In an encounter with Rosel back in February the idea was born to visit IDEA with plans and a well developed business concept. With valuable tips and advice from IDEA, the joint venture was started.

According to the Minister, the community of small business is the back bone of our economy. She stated that she was happy that the Small Business Week is producing results and is continuing to stimulate the economy of our island. She continued that every business offering knowledge and information services are helping us to move forward to developing our third economic pillar, namely, knowledge.

The Minister thanked Jessica and Michael for the honor of celebrating their new business with them and wished them success in this new endeavor.

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Aruban Piano Legacy...

Continued from page 3

Kyle Winklaar (19) comes from a musical family. At the age of 9 he began playing the piano. He has played in various groups, jazz ensembles and has also presented at a large audience in a Concert of the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival. His preference goes out for Jazz and local music. Kyle intends to pursue a musical career.

Angelo Kock (32)... "the piano is the primary instrument for musical expression in general. His parents always encouraged him, from a very young age, as they saw much musical talent in him from very early on. His music today is a profession for Kyle. He plays in hotels, clubs, cafés and in other establishments on the island. His preference is for Latin music.

Terrance Green (18) considers the piano an incredible instrument – the sound, the feel of the ivory keys, and all the musical possibilities of the piano! Terrance aspires to one day achieve the caliber of Herbie Hancock or Bill Evans. His presentation in this Concert will demonstrate his tremendous skill.

When Mandy Villasmil received a piano as a birthday gift on her 10th birthday, it added a new musical dimension to her life. From the age of 8 she has been playing the violin and has been singing since she was 6 years of age. She is still practicing both skills. One of Mandy's teachers was the great maestro Toty Arends. Mandy's favorite is Aruban music and in particular our waltz.

Cas Animal Foundation founder Kirsten Arndt needs the support of dog lovers NOW!



Smiling through the pain

For more than a decade, Kirsten Arndt, the founder of Cas Animal Foundation, has been rescuing stray and abandoned dogs and cats off Aruba's streets.

She would rehabilitate them physically and psychologically, finding good, loving homes for them, whenever possible, often assisting island visitors to return home with an animal that had captured their hearts.

Those dogs that many would dismiss as being too ugly, and "not worth bothering to save" she

would keep and care for personally in her home, which she converted into a refuge. Ignoring her own needs, she has dedicated her life to giving

these unwanted dogs love and proper medical care. She conducted fundraisers and devoted all her time to designing, getting land and putting aside funds to build a proper strictly no-kill shelter on a plot awarded her by the government. Just on the brink of breaking ground, after finally obtaining all the permits needed, she has fallen seriously ill, and now she personally is in need of support of all those who believed in her worthy goal.

Kiki was diagnosed with a tumor pressing on her spine at the juncture of her neck and skull. The doctor thought it miraculous that she could even breathe. They operated on Friday, April 19. When asked if she had any last words before being anesthetized, she only said "Please make sure my dogs are taken care of." The doctor and nurses report that

after thousands of operations, this unheard of sentiment left them speechless.

Kiki's friends have rallied to help her continue in her mission. Arrangements had been made to see the foundation and construction of a sanctuary would continue. Following surgery, Kiki has received more bad news. A portion of the tumor adhering to the spinal cord could not be removed. She must go to Colombia for a particular kind of surgery to have that done. Unfortunately, all medical expenses are coming out of pocket, and her personal resources are utterly depleted. She refuses to touch the funds put aside for the care of the dogs and building of the sanctuary. At present, she cannot walk, but is still anxious to get back to her babies, or see to their care during this time; their will being is her main

focus. Most of the dogs she had rescued have been moved, but some still remain.

Her most pressing concern at present is 20 dogs that need homes immediately, even if only on a temporary basis. Their food will be paid for, so please, if anyone is willing to take a dog, contact Kiki at the hospital on her cell: 742-8732 or send a text message. A message of support and good wishes will also help to raise her spirits.

Cas Animal Foundation has been providing a very important services to the Aruban community for a number of years now, purely on a volunteer basis, assisting many hotels when they had problems with stay dogs and cats on their premises. Now is a good time to help someone in dire need, who gave selflessly of their time and energy.

Rosalie Klein

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson

Continued from page 2

NDS: The guys in the movie "Pain and Gain" are obsessed with their looks and bodies. What is your relationship to that aspect of bodybuilding?

DJ: Well for those guys yes. It's a very fascinating culture of body building, where the body builders, be they amateur or professional, are extremely disciplined and their world consists of eating and sleeping and working out. It's a crazy, crazy world. They find their own comfort in the world of body building. Personally for me I enjoy the training and work out. For me it's not necessarily being a big muscled guy, it's just a matter of what anchors my day.

NDS: Even Body builders grow old and it shows on their bodies. What do you notice as changing as you grow older?

DJ: I turned 40 this year. So what I do is train smarter, try and understand, really try and understand, educate myself on supplements and on what I'm eating. When I'm eating it, the time of eating it, so I have hired a great diet conditioning coach who is very, very knowledgeable in not only helping me prepare for various roles but even in between roles and helping me understand what certain foods do and what they don't do. I have a very wonderful holistic doctor in New Mexico who continues to do body testing and things like that.

NDS: What advice would you have to help people anchor their day and their lives?

DJ: The key thing that I would share with every one is to find some thing that you love to do. Something you are passionate about. For me I found what anchors my day, and some times it doesn't even have to be a work out. Some times it includes just being on a computer or checking email or just taking a walk. In terms of eating: just eat a bit clean because all that bad stuff will catch up with you later.

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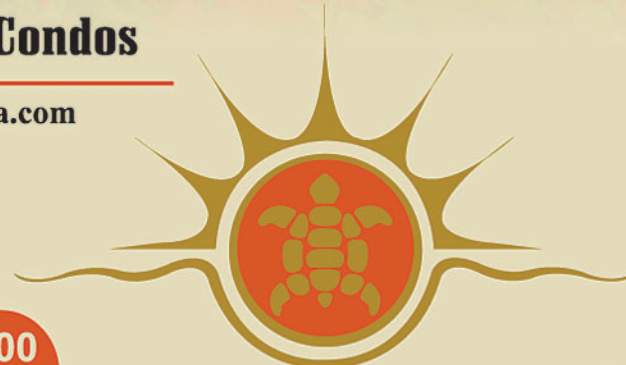
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Sabena Technics wins Aruba support deal

CARIBBEAN start-up operator Aruba Airlines has contracted Sabena Technics' Miami-based subsidiary Barfield to provide component support for its Airbus A320s.

The Dutch Antilles-based carrier has signed a four-year, by-the-hour contract covering pool access to components from "nose to tail" and repairs on selected equipment, says the French MRO provider.

The repairs will be conducted at Barfield's facility in Bogota, Colombia, while an equipment kit will be placed at the carrier's base in Oranjestad.

Aruba says that it is conducting final certification flights to launch operations later this month with a single A320 (registration P4-AAA) later in April.

Flightglobal's Ascend Online database lists the International Aero Engines IAE V2500-powered twinjet as being owned by International Lease Finance. The aircraft was built in 1996.

The airline configured it with 138 economy and 12 business-class seats. Flights will initially be operated to Maracaibo, Venezuela; Pana-



ma City; and São Paulo, Brazil.

Miami is to be added in June, after the planned delivery of a second A320 (P4-

AAC) in May.

These A320 aircraft are powered by reliable and efficient IAE engines to reduce fuel consumption.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

187 dead, 77 injured after fierce Nigeria clashes

KANO, Nigeria (AFP) - Heavy fighting between Nigerian troops and suspected Islamist insurgents has killed 187 people and injured 77 others, with massive blasts that raged after the clashes leaving nearly half the town destroyed, the Red Cross said yesterday.

The bloodshed in the remote northeastern town of Baga likely marks the single deadliest event in the insurgency being waged by Boko Haram, the radical Islamist group blamed for scores of attacks in northern and central Nigeria since 2009.

Conflicting reports have emerged of the fighting that broke out Friday, but residents and officials have said the high death toll included soldiers, insurgents as well as scores of civilians.

Baga lies in Borno state, the home base of Boko Haram, but the town had not previously been known as the site of such heavy fighting.

The Islamists have used the state capital Maiduguri as their base, but scores of militants have reportedly fled to more remote corners of the state fol-

lowing a crackdown by security forces in the city.

Initial reports suggested that the fighting started when soldiers surrounded a mosque allegedly housing Islamist insurgents. But a resident told AFP that the clashes began when Boko Haram gunmen attempted to burst into a "viewing centre" where locals go to watch football matches.

Seeing the approaching militants, some in the viewing centre reportedly fled, causing the Islamists to open fire.

Nearby troops engaged the gunmen but were forced to withdraw under fire from heavily armed insurgents. Some resident reports said the militants were armed with rocket propelled grenades.

The troops later returned with a large contingent of reinforcements.

The soldiers then "went on a shooting spree and set homes on fire. They opened fire on anybody within sight. Women, children and the elderly were not spared", said the resident, who did not want to be named when accusing the military of such violence.

US senators clash over tying immigration to Boston attack

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US senators said yesterday that fixing the immigration system would help prevent future terror attacks, and warned it would be "cruel" to exploit the Boston bombings as a reason for delaying reform efforts.

Lawmakers in a Judiciary Committee hearing clashed over linking the attack to stronger immigration enforcement, as the Senate considers a landmark bipartisan immigration plan that puts 11 million undocumented migrants on a path to US citizenship.

Judiciary chairman Patrick Leahy led Democrats' declarations that the bill would increase security by tightening borders and enhancing entry and exit data.

"Let no one be so cruel as to use the heinous acts of two young men last week to derail the dreams and futures of mil-

lions of hardworking people," Leahy said at the outset of a lengthy hearing.

"A nation as strong as ours can welcome the oppressed and persecuted without making compromises on our security."

The bill, negotiated in secret by four Senate Democrats and four Senate Republicans, would require dramatic improvements to security along the nation's southern border with Mexico demonstrated over a 10-year period before any illegal immigrant can apply for a permanent residency green card.

But the issue became a flashpoint in the hearing when Democrat Chuck Schumer appeared to try to caution "those who are pointing to what happened, the terrible tragedy in Boston as, I would say, an excuse for not doing a bill or de-

laying it many months or years."

"I never said that!" boomed Senate Republican Chuck Grassley, who earlier had questioned the merits of some of the bill's security measures.

On Friday, during the first of at least three scheduled immigration hearings over the coming days, Grassley linked the Boston terrorist attacks and the nation's immigration policies by saying lawmakers should study whether the suspects exploited "weaknesses" in the law.

Congressman Steve King of Iowa, a Republican and tea party favorite, had been more direct, telling the National Journal last week that the country should not rush to immigration reform, especially in the wake of the Boston attack which killed three people and wounded 180.

Schumer and Leahy both said they welcomed the introduction of amendments during the mark up process that would improve the underlying immigration legislation.

White House vows 'Round Two' in guns fight

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House yesterday vowed there would be a "Round Two" in President Barack Obama's struggle to pass new gun laws, after his initial attempt crashed to failure last week.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said that the failure of the Senate to endorse expanded background checks for gun owners, the final remaining piece of ambitious White House reform plans, was not the end.

"Ninety percent of the American people were in favor of one thing; a minority of United States senators derailed that," he said. "I don't have a legislative strategy to lay out to you today but there will be a 'Round Two' and there will be a continued effort by this administration and, more importantly, by the American people."

Carney complained that a small number of mostly Republican senators had blocked the background checks bill in the Senate despite the fact that it was favored by 90 percent of the American people.

"What the president made clear... is that this will happen. The time will come when we expand and improve our background-check system because it has to be done. It is common sense. As we have seen in our history, sometimes Congress takes a little bit of time to catch up to the American people. This is one of those times."

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International News

Dutch police arrest ex-British school pupil over shooting threat

LEIDEN (AFP) - Dutch police arrested a former pupil at a British school in the Netherlands on Monday in connection with a threat to go on a shooting spree that saw armed police deployed and schools closed.

Police in the university city of Leiden, just northeast of The Hague, confirmed one person had been arrested following the threat to "shoot my Dutch teacher and as many students as I can", made on an Internet site over the weekend.

"Someone was arrested in connection with the threat and we're continuing our investigations," a police spokeswoman said, declining to give her name.

The British School in Voorschoten, between Leiden and The Hague, said the pupil was expelled in October 2011 "after incidents regarding his behaviour and has therefore not attended the school for over a year."

Police informed the school that there was never a threat to

the British School or to its students, the school said, adding that it had remained open on Monday.

Founded in 1931, the expensive private school hosts students of 80 different nationalities, according to its website.

Authorities in Leiden decided late Sunday night to close secondary schools to thousands of pupils following a tip-off by Swiss police following the threat.

"I will shoot my Dutch teacher and as many students as I can," said the anonymous message in English on the US-based online forum 4chan.org.

"It's at a school in the Dutch city of Leiden" it said, chillingly adding "for more proof, I will be using a 9mm Colt Defender."

"Oh, and I'm using a proxy, the police is not gonna find me before tomorrow," the message ended.

In a statement late Sunday, law officials said they did not yet know against which school

the threat had been made and warned parents not to send their children to class.

An AFP correspondent said that besides the cordoned-off schools and the police presence, life in the city appeared to be continuing normally.

Dutch police in 2009 arrested an 18-year-old man for posting threats on 4chan.org.

The man, who threatened a shooting at a school in the southern city of Breda, later said he did it as a joke.

In April 2011, a man armed with a semi-automatic rifle killed six people when he opened fire on shoppers at a mall in the western town of Alphen aan de Rijn.

Gunman Tristan van der Vlis, 24, then committed suicide, in what was the worst mass shooting in recent times in the Netherlands.

In 1999, four students and a teacher were wounded when a student fired 10 shots in a computer room at a school in the southern Dutch town of Veghel.

Millionaire businessman wins Paraguay presidency

ASUNCION (AFP) - Colorado Party millionaire and political neophyte Horacio Cartes won Paraguay's presidential race, officials said Sunday, paving the way for his nation to rejoin the Mercosur trade bloc.

Cartes, a conservative tobacco baron, took 46 percent of the vote against 37 percent for his nearest rival, Efraim Alegre of the ruling Liberal Party, Paraguay's top election official said. Alegre quickly conceded defeat.

With the national flag wrapped around his neck, the 56 year-old president-elect said in his victory speech that he would lead Paraguay in "a new direction."

Cartes -- whose businesses include banks, a sports team, soybeans and currency exchanges -- also promised that he would work "for all Paraguayans."

The conservative Colorados held Paraguay's presidency for 60 years until leftist former Catholic bishop Fernando Lugo was elected in 2008.

But Lugo was impeached in June 2012, a move that several regional governments saw as a coup d'etat by the conservative legislature. Paraguay was



promptly suspended from the Mercosur trade bloc as well as the Unasur group of south American nations.

Cartes's election brings Paraguay back into their good graces.

Argentine President Cristina Kirchner and Uruguayan President Jose Mujica both congratulated Cartes.

Mujica in turn invited Cartes to the next Mercosur summit, to be held in Uruguay in June.

The larger countries need Paraguay: in February, the French and Germany ambassadors in Asuncion said that the European Union would not sign any agreements with Mercosur as long as Paraguay was

absent.

Paraguay was one of the original Mercosur members along with Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay when the regional trade bloc was founded in 1991.

Venezuela had for years been trying to join Mercosur, a move opposed by Paraguay. But with Paraguay out last year, Venezuela entered the group.

Paraguayan officials however have said they will accept the new member, despite their previous opposition.

Vatican calls for dialogue in crisis-hit Venezuela

CARACAS (AFP) - The Catholic Church weighed in on Venezuela's political crisis, with Pope Francis expressing deep concern and calling for dialogue in the wake of a disputed presidential election.

The head of the Venezuela church meanwhile offered to help arrange talks between President Nicolas Maduro, the political heir of the late leftist leader Hugo Chavez, and opposition leader Henrique Capriles.

Two days after Maduro's inauguration as president, the government and the opposition

remained locked in a tense confrontation over the outcome of the snap election to replace Chavez, who died March 5 after 14 years in power.

The National Electoral Council declared Maduro the winner with an 1.8 percent margin, setting off opposition demands for a recount and furious street protests that the government said left eight people dead across the country.

An expanded audit of the vote is to begin as early as next week, but the vice president of the election council said Saturday it could not overturn

Maduro's victory.

Pope Francis, who hails from Argentina and is the first pontiff from Latin America, said in a statement from the Vatican Sunday that he was following events in Venezuela "with great concern."

The Catholic Church has often played a role as mediator in political conflicts in Latin America, notably in communist-ruled Cuba in recent years, but it has been largely sidelined in Venezuela under Chavez, a leftwing populist who often butted heads with the bishops.

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Health & Living

Controversial breast implants become works of art in France



MARSEILLE (AFP) - Nestled inside flimsy black fishnet stockings that droop heavily from the ceiling, hundreds of breast implants made by a firm whose faulty products sparked a global health scare have been turned into an art installation in the French city of Marseille.

The aptly punned "PIP Show" by artist Camille Lorin, which opens late on Saturday, comes just days after France launched a high-profile trial against five managers from the PIP company who stand accused of using sub-standard, industrial-grade silicone implants.

An estimated 300,000 women in 65 countries are believed to have received the im-

plants, which some health authorities say are twice as likely to rupture as other brands.

Each implant, glowing like an orb in the show's eery blue light, threatens to tear through the fine stocking, which is stretched almost to breaking point.

"Hold-ups represent femininity and yet are something fragile which can break," Lorin said, reflecting on the ruptures suffered by women with faulty implants, 5,000 of whom are registered as plaintiffs in the case against the executives from the now-defunct PIP.

She added that her focus was "not really the trial or the



A photo taken April 18, 2013 shows files in the courthouse at the Parc Chanot in Marseille, southern France, before the trial of five managers of the French company Poly Implant Prothese (PIP), including its founder Jean-Claude Mas, who face fraud charges for allegedly selling faulty breast implants that sparked global health fears. PIP company was shut down on March 2010 and its product banned after it was revealed to have been using non-authorized silicone gel that caused abnormally high rupture rates of its implants.

With her one-night display as part of events to mark Marseille's year as the European Capital of Culture, Lorin said she wanted to shift the focus from the legal proceedings to the silicone enhancers themselves, and the pressure on women to be beautiful.

scandal" but on the pressures to have cosmetic surgery.

Handling the silicone was "quite complicated", said the 32-year-old.

"It's actually quite something to manipulate the implants, it brings up questions that are sensitive and private".

Cannabis: Pill better than smoking for pain relief



marijuana and pills with tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, which is the active ingredient in the drug.

A team led by Ziva Cooper and Margaret Haney of Columbia University in New York asked 15 male and 15 female volunteers, all of them daily cannabis smokers, to carry out a pain test after having smoked marijuana, taken a pill or a dummy look-a-like called a placebo.

The experiment entailed a "cold pressor test," in which the participants immersed a hand into a bath of extremely cold water for up to two minutes, during which they reported on the sensation of pain.

Both smoked marijuana and the THC decreased pain sensitivity and boosted tolerance to pain compared to the placebo.

But the pill beat marijuana for long-lasting decreases in pain.

The findings are promising for medical uses of the THC pill, but more work is needed to determine its impact on individuals who do not smoke marijuana, say the investigators.

The study appears in the journal Neuropsychopharmacology.

PARIS (AFP) - Marijuana provides greater pain relief when taken in pill form than when it is smoked, according to a study published on Monday that touches on a controversial medical issue.

Cancer and multiple-sclerosis doctors are looking more and more closely at cannabis for patients seeking relief from pain, and some jurisdictions allow the medical use of the drug for this purpose.

But marijuana smoke also carries health risks, for it carries carcinogens and respiratory irritants and users tend to inhale deeply and hold their breath to gain maximum effect.

Neuroscientists in the United States have now carried out what they say is the first scientific study to compare pain relief between smoked



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Sci-Tech

Dutch reality show seeks one-way astronauts for Mars

NEW YORK (AFP) - Are you crazy enough to sign up for a one-way trip to Mars? Applications are being accepted by the makers of a Dutch reality show that says it will deliver the first humans to the red planet in 10 years.

The main requirements are strong health, good people and survival skills, being 18 or older, and having a reasonable grasp of the English language.

The company, called "Mars One," aims to land its first four astronauts in 2023 for a televised reality show that would follow the exploits of the first humans to attempt to establish a colony on Mars.

Already, the organizers have received "10,000 emails from more than 100 different countries from people who are in-

terested in joining us for this mission," said founder Bas Landsdorp at a press conference in a New York hotel.

In all they are seeking six groups of four people each. A new group would make the seven-month journey every two years after the first crew departs in 2022.

The cost for the first mission is about six billion dollars.

The project has garnered plenty of skeptics but is backed by Dutch Nobel laureate Gerard 't Hooft, who won the 1999 prize for physics.

The world's space agencies have only managed to send unmanned robotic rovers to Mars so far, the latest being NASA's \$2.5 billion Curiosity rover which touched down in August 2012.

Late 20th century was warmest in 1,400 years

PARIS (AFP) - Earth was cooling until the end of the 19th century and a hundred years later, the planet's surface was on average warmer than at any time in the previous 1,400 years, according to climate records presented.

In a study spanning two millennia published in Nature Geoscience, scientists said a "long-term cooling trend" around the world swung into reverse in the late 19th century.

In the 20th century, the average global temperature was 0.4 degrees Celsius (0.7 de-

grees Fahrenheit) higher than that of the previous 500 years, with only Antarctica bucking the trend.

From 1971-2000, the planet was warmer than at any other time in nearly 1,400 years.

This measure is a global average, and some regions did experience warmer periods than that -- but only for a time. Europe, for instance, was probably warmer in the first century AD than at the end of the 20th century.

The investigation is the first attempt to reconstruct temperatures over the last 2,000 years for individual continents.

It seeks to shed light on a fiercely-contested aspect in the global-warming debate.

Skeptics have claimed bouts of cooling or warming before the Industrial Revolution -- including two episodes in Europe called the Medieval Warm Period and the Little Ice Age -- are proof that climate variations are natural, not man-made.

The new study does not wade into the debate about greenhouse gases, but points to two planetary trends.

The first is a clear, prolonged period of cooling. It may have been caused by a combination of factors, including an increase in volcanic activity, with stratospheric ashes reflecting the sunlight, or a decrease in solar activity or tiny

changes in Earth's orbit, both of which would diminish sunlight falling on the planet.

The cooling -- between 0.1-0.3 C (0.2-0.6 F) per thousand years, depending on the region -- went into reverse towards the end of the 19th century, and was followed by an intensifying period of warming in the 20th, the paper said.

Beneath this global trend over 2,000 years were episodes of continental cooling or warming, some of which were quite long.

And some continents lagged the overall planetary trend, but with the exception of Antarctica, all followed it.

"Distinctive periods, such as the Medieval Warm Period or the Little Ice Age stand out, but do not show a globally uniform pattern on multi-decadal time scales," said Heinz Wanner of the University of Bern in Switzerland, one of 78 researchers from 24 countries who took part in the project.

Previous research into climate change has pointed to a warming spurt in the 20th century and attributed it to the rise of heat-trapping carbon gases emitted by burning coal, oil and gas.

2012 saw the 36th straight year that global temperatures were above average since 1880, when scientifically acceptable records were first kept, and was the ninth or 10th warmest on record, US scientists said in January.



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ACROSS

1. North American Indian
5. Spider's trap
8. Checkerboard line
11. "___ cow!"
12. Wanted poster inits.
13. Concocted
14. Judged
16. Was in debt
17. Dispensed, as cards
18. Finland's cont.

20. Subtle glow

23. Adam's son and

namesakes

27. Parabolas

30. Finds a sum

32. Drivers' org.

33. Genesis sailor

34. Hong Kong ___

35. Know-it-___

36. Diarist Anaïs

37. Swab (hyph.)

38. Boxing

outcomes

(abbr.)

39. Freezing rain

41. Steak, e.g.

43. Hoop-shooting

locale

45. Slight bit of

color

49. Hosiery catch

52. Imposed, as a

law

55. Sty residents

56. Regret greatly

57. Chanted

58. Pub pint

purchase

59. Wane

60. London gallery

DOWN

1. Actor Everett

2. Ramblin'

flower

3. Actress

Martinelli

4. Peeper

protector

5. Used to be

6. ___ out a living

7. Ordered

8. Untrained

9. Keats work

10. Exchanged

vows

13. Additional

15. R followers

19. American ship

abbr.

21. Bound log

craft

22. Unrehearsed,

as a speech

(hyph.)

24. Chat

25. Sainly circle

26. Impertinence

27. Miller and

Sothorn

28. Stir up

29. Sugar stalk

31. Cheat

35. "If ___ you

don't

succeed..." (2

wds.)

37. Amount (abbr.)

40. Easter gifts

42. Ike's theater

44. Slight

46. College sports

gp.

47. Lady's escort

48. Small

advantage

49. Jacuzzi spot

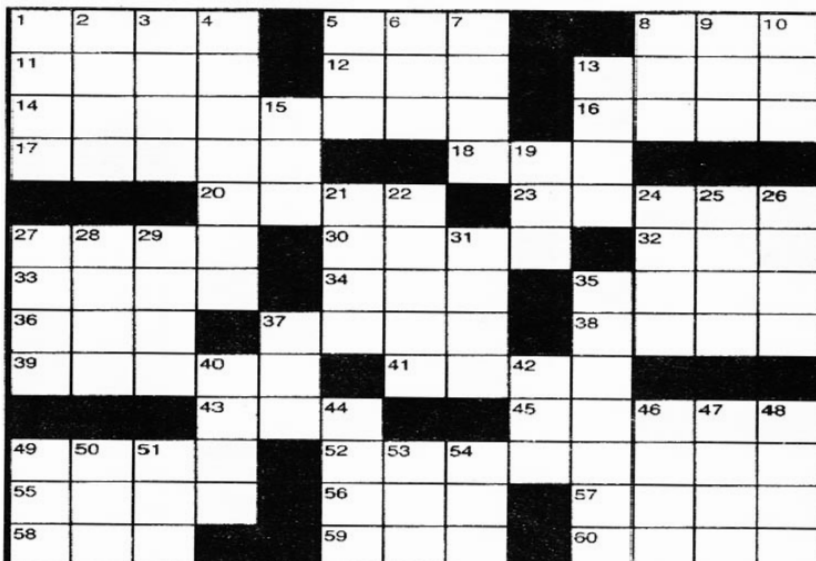
50. Naught

51. Birthday

number

53. Pencil end

54. Valentine mo.



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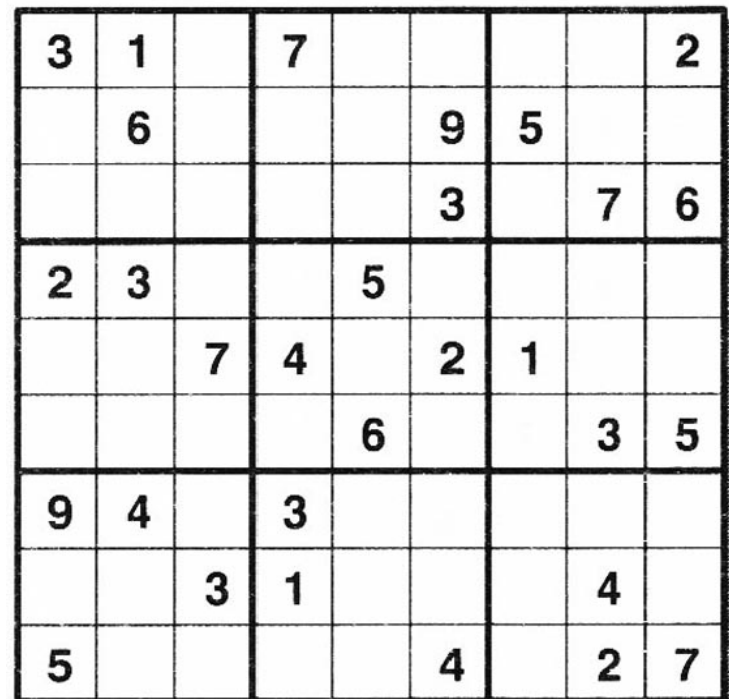
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SOLUTION

7	2	8	4	6	9	1	8	5
8	4	6	5	2	1	6	2	9
1	5	9	8	7	6	2	4	6
5	6	2	7	9	8	4	6	1
6	9	1	2	8	4	7	5	9
4	8	7	1	5	6	9	6	2
9	7	8	6	1	5	6	2	4
6	1	5	6	7	2	8	9	7
2	6	4	9	8	7	5	1	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9

A number is Never repeated in a row or column.

In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

Some US airports see delays as budget cuts hit

NEW YORK (AFP) - Some US airports Monday were experiencing significant flight delays in the wake of US Federal Aviation Administration furloughs due to federal budget cuts that are forcing staffing cutbacks.

In addition to some wind-related delays, New York's La Guardia airport was experiencing "general departure delays" of 60-75 minutes, while Newark, New Jersey's airport was experiencing delays of 46-60 minutes, according to the FAA's website.

The delays began over the weekend after the FAA began instituting furloughs for workers, including air traffic control staff, on Sunday related to the budget cuts.

Hold-ups averaged more than three hours Sunday night at Los Angeles International Airport.

"The FAA will be working with the airlines and using a comprehensive set of air traffic management tools to minimize the delay impacts of lower staffing as we move into the busy summer travel season," the agency said in a statement.

An American Airlines spokeswoman said Newark was one of five airports "most

likely" to be affected by the sequestration cuts, while La Guardia was one of four airports that "could potentially be affected" by the cuts.

On Friday three airline groups said they would petition the Federal appeals court in Washington to block sequester cuts by the FAA and the Department of Transportation "to protect the rights of the traveling public."

"The Regional Airline Association, Airlines for America and the Air Line Pilots Association warned of "significant chaos" that could take place due to the furloughs of airport and other personnel.

"Our entire aviation system will struggle to maintain normality due to furloughs of these essential workers. The economic viability of our country depends on this mode of transportation; everyone will be affected," said ALPA president Lee Moak.

Lufthansa cancels almost all flights due to strike

FRANKFURT (AFP) - German airline Lufthansa said Monday it has cancelled most of its domestic, European and long-haul flights at six German airports due to strike action by ground personnel and some cabin crew.

Out of nearly 1,800 planned flights on Monday, "we will operate 20 short and medium-range flights and 12 long-distance services," a spokesman told AFP.

At Lufthansa's main hub in Frankfurt, Germany's biggest and Europe's third-biggest airport, just six out of a total 50 flights would go ahead, and three from 17 at Munich.

Qatar, Total consortium to build \$1.5 bn refinery: reports

DOHA (AFP) - Energy-rich Qatar and a consortium led by Total of France have signed a joint venture agreement to build a \$1.5 billion petroleum refinery in the Gulf state, local media reported on Monday.

The refinery will have a daily production capacity of 146,000 barrels of petroleum products, reports said.

Government-owned Qatar Petroleum will hold 84 percent in the equity of Ras Laffan Refinery (LR2), while Total will have a 10 percent share. The rest will be held by Japanese groups Idemitsu et Cosmo, Marubeni and Mitsui, reports said, adding that the facility will be operated by Qatargas.

The refinery will have a daily production capacity of

60,000 barrels of naphtha, 53,000 barrels of jet fuel, 24,000 barrels of gasoil, and 9,000 barrels of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

The Gulf state produces around one million barrels of crude oil daily. But it sits on the world's third largest reserve of natural gas -- more than 900 trillion cubic feet (25 trillion cubic metres).

Google boss defends UK tax bill

LONDON (AFP) - A top Google executive on Monday insisted that the company's "key" role in developing Britain's electronic commerce sector should be taken into account in the row over its controversial tax arrangements.

According to figures cited by Conservative MP Charlie Elphicke, Google paid only £3.4 million (\$5.4 million, 4.2 million euros) in British corporation tax in 2011 on revenues totalling about £2.5 billion, sparking fury in austerity-hit Britain.

But Google's executive chairman Eric Schmidt told BBC Radio 4's World at One programme the company had not acted illegally and had contributed significantly to Britain's economic growth.

Defending the company's tax bill, he said: "Of course that omits the fact that we also hire more than 2,000 employees and are investing heavily in Britain."

Schmidt urged critics to consider the "totality" of the Internet giant's contribution to the economy.

"The fact of the matter is these are the way taxes are done globally," he added.

"I think the most important thing to say about our taxes is that we fully comply with the law."

Google has come under closer scrutiny in several European nations where cash-strapped governments are increasingly wary of being shortchanged on tax revenue.

British lawmakers last year accused the company of being "immoral" during a committee grilling of Matt Brittin, chief executive of Google UK.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

B	B	S		L	E	S	S		A	N	E	W
E	E	L		Y	W	C	A		M	E	R	E
E	T	A		N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R	S
R	A	B	I	D		S	A	L				
				D	E	L	I		D	E	P	T
	F	D	A		I	M	A		D	D	O	R
E	A	R				M	P	H		P	T	S
B	R	A	D		A	L	E		R	E	O	
B	E	G	I	N		Y	M	C	A			
				S	R	I			H	E	D	D
E	M	P	H	A	S	I	Z	E		A	O	L
L	O	S	E		I	R	I	S		M	T	V
F	I	T	S		S	A	P	S		S	E	A

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Ralph Lauren to pay \$1.6 mn over Argentina bribes

NEW YORK (AFP) - Ralph Lauren will pay \$1.6 million in penalties and returned profits stemming from bribes paid by its Argentina unit for improper customs clearance, US officials said Monday.

Over a five-year period, the subsidiary paid bribes to obtain paperwork for goods to clear customs, allow clearance of items without the necessary paperwork and to clear prohibited items, the Justice Department said.

Sometimes the payments were to avoid inspection entirely, it added.

Of the total punishment, \$882,000 are in fines. The rest involves the return of illicit profits and interest, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The SEC is not charging the company with violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act because it was Ralph Lauren itself that reported the violations, and it did so quickly and thoroughly, the agency said.

Reese Witherspoon arrested: report

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Oscar winner Reese Witherspoon was arrested for disorderly conduct in the US state of Georgia after authorities detained her husband for drunk driving, US media reported Sunday.

While cops questioned her husband Jim Toth after seeing the couple's car swerving early Friday, the actress allegedly did not make any new friends.

Entertainment news website TMZ reported she started acting up, asking "Do you know my name?"

An officer answered by saying, "No, I don't need to know your name," to which the 37-year-old reportedly shot back:

"You're about to find out who I am ... You are going to be on national news."

Witherspoon, one of Hollywood's highest paid stars with a reputation as being something of a straight arrow, also became "verbal" and "ornery" at the amount of time police were taking with her husband, according to TMZ.

Both the actress, famous for her huge "Legally Blonde" hits, and her spouse were taken to jail, booked and released, TMZ said.

Witherspoon, in Georgia to film a new movie, won the best actress Academy Award for 2005's "Walk the Line."



The Duchess of Cambridge proudly shows off her baby bump

The Duchess of Cambridge welcomed in the first signs of spring yesterday in a mint green coat.

The 31-year-old royal mom-to-be looked stunning as she honored the achievements of hundreds of Scouts at Windsor Castle Sunday, showing off her bump in a mint green cotton Mulberry coat, a Whiteley fascinator and nude LK Bennett heels.

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Bible a 'copy' of Koran, bombing suspect told neighbor

BOSTON (AFP) - The deceased Boston bombing suspect recently described the Bible as a copy of the Koran during an argument about religion, a former neighbor claims.

Al Ammon, whose apartment is in the same building in the Boston suburb of Watertown where Tamerlan Tsarnaev once lived, told CBS television's "60 Minutes" that the dispute between the two took place about three months ago.

"I remember the first thing I said to him was that it's always good to have an open mind towards other religions. And then he went into the Bible and the Koran," Ammon said in an excerpt of an interview set to air later Sunday. "He was explaining how the Bible is actually a copy of the Koran and how it's used for the American government as an excuse to invade other countries."

Christianity predates Islam by 600 years.

Tamerlan began posting militant videos on social media sites in recent years, and made a six-month trip to Dagestan, which borders Chechnya, in 2012. Both Russian regions host separatist rebel groups.

'Oblivion' obliterates box office rivals



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "Oblivion," a post-apocalyptic action flick starring Tom Cruise, obliterated the competition in its debut this weekend, taking in about \$38.2 million, industry estimates showed Sunday.

The film earned more than a third of this weekend's box office revenue -- about 37.41 percent of ticket sales, according to box office tracker Exhibitor Relations -- as it jettisoned last week's winner "42" from the top spot.

"42," a biopic about trailblazing black baseball star Jackie Robinson, which stars Harrison Ford as the Brooklyn Dodgers executive who signed him, this week came in second place, with \$18 million in ticket sales.

Stone-age cartoon "The Croods," from DreamWorks Animation, was third with \$9.5 million, followed by "Scary Movie 5," the latest installment in the slasher-comedy franchise, which earned \$6.3 million.

Action sequel "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," was fifth, with \$5.8 million.

In sixth place was "The Place Beyond the Pines," starring Oscar nominees Ryan Gosling and Bradley Cooper, which earned \$4.7 million.

Action thriller "Olympus Has Fallen," in which terrorists capture the White House and hold the president hostage, was in seventh place with \$4.5 million.

"Evil Dead" -- a reinvention of Sam Raimi's cult 1981 film about a group of friends hunted by demons in the woods -- came in eighth with \$4.1 million.

The 3D re-release of Steven Spielberg's 1993 dinosaur classic "Jurassic Park" took in \$1.7 million for ninth place.

Rounding out the top 10 was Walt Disney's 3D fantasy adventure flick "Oz the Great and Powerful," which this weekend earned \$3 million for a seven-week total of \$224 million.

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (al-



most 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by

two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

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Football: Van Persie treble fires United to 20th title

MANCHESTER (AFP) - Robin van Persie hit a first-half hat-trick as Manchester United cantered to an unprecedented 20th English league title with an emphatic 3-0 victory at home to Aston Villa on Monday.

Manchester City's 3-1 loss at Tottenham Hotspur a day earlier had handed United a chance to regain the title and Alex Ferguson's men needed no second invitation, swamping Villa to claim the championship with four games to spare.

Van Persie, United's number 20, was the man who brought United their 20th top-flight crown, netting inside 90 seconds and then scoring a breathtaking volley before completing his hat-trick 12 minutes before half-time.

With 13 Premier League titles, United manager Ferguson and veteran midfielder Ryan Giggs, creator of two of van Persie's goals, have now each won as many English league crowns as Arsenal.

Eternal rivals Liverpool, meanwhile, now trail United by two championships on the all-time honours board.

Villa never threatened to poop the party and remain under threat from third-bottom

Wigan Athletic, who could suck Paul Lambert's side into the relegation zone if they win their game in hand.

The evening's outcome was never in doubt from the moment, just one minute and 23 seconds into the game, when van Persie put United in front.

Rafael da Silva's delivery from the right appeared over-hit, but Giggs rescued it by volleying a cushioned cross across goal for the Dutchman to tap in from barely a yard.

A chant of 'Championship!' rang out from Old Trafford's Stretford End as United continued to press, Rafael hitting the post with a crisp strike from 20 yards.

Villa threatened to spoil things when Christian Benteke side-footed over from Andreas Weimann's pass, only for van Persie to double United's lead with a strike to rival any goal scored in Europe this season.

Wayne Rooney floated a 40-



yard pass behind the Villa defence and van Persie met the ball first-time with a technically immaculate volley from outside the box that rocketed past goalkeeper Brad Guzan and into the net.

On a night rich with symmetry, van Persie's third goal arrived in the 33rd minute.

Shinji Kagawa freed Giggs, who unselfishly squared to van Persie, and the former Arsenal striker neatly side-stepped Guzan before lifting the ball into the roof of the net.

With 24 goals, United's £24 million (\$37 million, 28 million euros) man now leads Luis Suarez by a goal in the top scorers' chart, to further blacken the Liverpool striker's mood after he was charged by the Football Association for biting Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic on Sunday.

Van Persie further illustrated his value by heading off the line from Weimann early in the second half, while David de Gea saved smartly from Benteke and Karim El Ahmadi.

Kagawa spurned a glorious chance to make it 4-0 when he blazed over the bar, but by then the match, like the title race, had long been decided.

SPORTS

Football: Luis Suarez roll of shame



LONDON (AFP) - Liverpool striker Luis Suarez found himself in hot water again on Sunday when his bite on Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic sparked universal condemnation. Here we look at the Uruguay star's previous controversies.

February 2007 - Suarez makes his international debut for Uruguay against Colombia but is sent off in the final minutes after being shown a second yellow card for dissent.

July 2010 - During the 2010 World Cup quarter-finals, Suarez prevents Ghana's Dominic Adiyiah from scoring in the final minute with a deliberate handball on the line and is subsequently sent off. A penalty was awarded but missed by Asamoah Gyan and footage showed Suarez celebrating on the sidelines. Uruguay eventually went through to the last four on penalties.

November 2010 - Suarez, then playing for Dutch team Ajax, earns a seven-match ban and is fined by his club for biting PSV Eindhoven midfielder Otman Bakkal.

October 2011 - Suarez racially abuses Manchester United's Patrice Evra during a Premier League match at Anfield and is banned for eight matches and fined £40,000 (\$60,000).

December 2011 - After making an offensive gesture towards Fulham fans, he is given a one-match ban.

February 2012 - Suarez refuses to shake Evra's hand before kick-off as United and Liverpool meet again at Old Trafford.

- Handles the ball prior to scoring Liverpool's winner in the FA Cup third round tie at Mansfield.

April 2013 - Bites Ivanovic on the right arm during his side's 2-2 draw with Chelsea at Anfield.



MOSCOW (AFP) - Two-time Olympic medal winner Arkady Vyatchanin has decided to quit swimming for Russia and represent another country, the Allsport news agency reported Monday. "I believe that I can offer nothing else to Russian swimming," Vyatchanin was quoted as saying at the Russian Cup final in Kazan. "I will continue my swimming performances but not as a Russian athlete any more. I will decide which country's team to join in the near future." The backstroke specialist said his American coach Gregg Troy supported his decision to change citizenship. The 29-year-old said he will miss the upcoming world championships in Barcelona to speed up the process so he can represent another country at the Olympics as soon as possible. Vyatchanin won two bronze medals at the Beijing Olympics in the 100m and 200m. He also won three silver medals at the world championships and four gold medals at the European championships.

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If it is a sport we will show it!

Sport: Australian swimming, athletics get funding cuts

SYDNEY (AFP) - Two of Australia's biggest Olympic sports, swimming and athletics, had their annual high-performance funding cut Monday by the government-backed Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

Swimming, the best-funded of Australian sports saw its 2013-14 allocation from the ASC reduced by 5.8 percent to Aus\$8,165,000 (\$8,389,000).

Athletics Australia's high-performance funding was cut by 3.8 percent to Aus\$6,570,000 for the same period.

Swimming Australia was told by the ASC that it needed to reduce overheads and "to



demonstrate effective leadership and governance of the sport".

Wholesale reforms are taking place in swimming with the appointment of two new bosses to Swimming Australia and new programmes to boost high performance, team-building and address psychological issues for athletes.

Leigh Nugent also recently resigned as head coach of the national team.

The funding cut follows a lacklustre showing at last year's London Olympics by the once-dominant swimming team, which delivered its lowest tally in the pool since Barcelona 1992 -- one gold, six silver and three bronze.

It was also Australian swimming's first Games without an individual gold medal since the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

Two inquiries commissioned after the disappointing performance found the squad lacked leadership and that "toxic" incidents such as drunkenness and bullying had gone unchecked.

The ASC said it was aiming for a top-five finish at the 2016 Olympics and Paralympics, top 15 at the 2014 Winter Olympics, first place on the medals table at next year's Commonwealth Games and 20 or more world champions per year.

ASC chairman John Wylie said the funding allocations re-

flected the plan to move Australian sport from "world class to world best".

Australian Olympic Committee president John Coates supported the moves.

Football Federation Australia had their allocation cut by 15 percent, but sailing received a 16.7 percent increase to Aus\$6.3 million on the back of three gold medals at the London Olympics.

Other sports to get a funding lift were canoeing, rowing, rugby sevens and golf. Rugby sevens and golf will be added to the Olympic programme for the 2016 Games in Rio.

Knicks' J.R. Smith Wins NBA Sixth Man Award



-- J.R. Smith of the New York Knicks has been named the National Basketball Association's Sixth Man of the Year, the first player from the franchise to receive the award since John Starks in 1997.

Smith, who averaged 18.1 points and 5.3 rebounds while coming off the bench for 80 games during the regular season, finished ahead of Jamal Crawford of the Los Angeles Clippers and Jarrett Jack of the Golden State Warriors.

A 27-year-old guard, Smith

becomes the third Knick to receive the honor, joining Starks and Anthony Mason, who won it for the 1994-95 campaign.

In his ninth year in the NBA after being selected 18th by the New Orleans Hornets in 2004, Smith's scoring and rebounding totals both were career highs, helping New York (54-28) to an Atlantic Division title and a No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference for the NBA playoffs. It was his second year with the Knicks after playing the previous five with the Denver Nuggets.

Smith received 484 of a possible 1,084 points from a panel of 121 sports writers and broadcasters in the U.S. and Canada. Crawford had 352 votes, while Jack collected 170, the National Basketball Association said in a statement.

The Knicks lead the Boston Celtics 1-0 in their best-of-seven first-round playoff series.



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MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	12	06	.667	--
YANKEES	10	07	.588	1.5
BALTIMORE	10	08	.556	2.0
TAMPA	08	10	.444	4.0
TORONTO	07	11	.421	4.5
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
KANSAS	10	07	.588	--
MINNESOTA	08	07	.533	1.0
DETROIT	09	09	.500	1.5
CLEVELAND	07	10	.412	3.0
CHICAGO	07	11	.389	3.5
West	W	L	Pct	GB
TEXAS	12	06	.667	--
OAKLAND	12	07	.647	.5
LA ANGELES	07	10	.375	5.0
SEATTLE	07	13	.368	5.5
HOUSTON	05	13	.294	6.5

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
ATLANTA	13	05	.579	--
WASHINGTON	10	08	.556	3.0
NY METS	09	08	.529	3.5
PHILADELPHIA	08	11	.421	5.5
MIAMI	04	15	.211	9.5
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CINCINNATI	11	08	.579	--
ST. LOUIS	10	08	.556	0.5
PITTSBURGH	10	08	.556	0.5
MILWAUKEE	09	08	.529	1.0
CHICAGO	05	12	.294	5.0
West	W	L	Pct	GB
COLORADO	13	05	.722	--
SAN FRANCISCO	12	07	.632	1.5
ARIZONA	10	08	.556	3.0
DODGERS	08	10	.444	5.0
SAN DIEGO	05	13	.278	8.0

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

NBA: First-round playoff



San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan (21) grabs a rebound between Los Angeles Lakers' Jodie Meeks (20), Antawn Jamison (4) and Pau Gasol (16)

SAN ANTONIO (AFP) - San Antonio's star trio of Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili combined for 53 points Sunday to lead the Spurs to a 91-79 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers in their NBA playoff opener.

With Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant sidelined by a torn Achilles tendon, the result was exactly what many expected in the first game of the best-of-seven Western Conference first-round series.

And it was just one of the lopsided results in the West on Sunday, followed by the top-seeded Oklahoma City Thunder's 120-91 triumph over the Houston Rockets.

Duncan posted the 139th playoff double-double of his career with 17 points and 10 rebounds.

Parker added 18 points and eight assists and also made three steals, while Ginobili, showing no sign of the hamstring strain that sidelined him late in the regular season, contributed 18 points.

Spurs point guard Parker noted that without Bryant, the Lakers were "a totally different team."

"Nothing worse than watching your brothers struggle and you can't do anything about it," Bryant tweeted after the game ended.

Even with point guard Steve Nash back from an extended injury absence, the Lakers -- the last team to clinch a playoff berth -- clearly have a tough task ahead of them when the series resumes on Wednesday.

Dwight Howard and Pau Gasol did what they could. Howard scored 20 points with 15 rebounds and Gasol delivered 16 points, 16 rebounds and six assists.

Nash scored 16 points in 29 minutes on the floor, but the Lakers couldn't overcome 18 turnovers and lackluster 3-of-15 shooting from three-point range.

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 24 points with six rebounds and four assists in the Thunder's rout of the Rock-

ets.

Russell Westbrook delivered 19 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds while Serge Ibaka added 17 points and seven rebounds for the victors.

James Harden, traded by the Thunder to the Rockets prior to the season, connected on just 6-of-19 from the floor but led Houston with 20 points. He got little help from fellow starters

history.

Their league-leading regular season record of 66-16 included a 27-game winning streak and assured them of home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

Against Milwaukee, a team that limped into the playoffs as the eighth seed in the East, the Heat showed they intended to

Heat drew first blood in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference first-round series.

Ray Allen scored 20 points, Dwyane Wade added 16 and Chris Bosh chipped in 15 for the Heat, who carried their strong form of the second half of the regular season seamlessly into the playoffs.

Since the All-Star break the Heat had gone 30-2 -- the best second-half winning percentage in NBA



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade leaps to score between Milwaukee Bucks point guard Monta Ellis, left, and Larry Sanders

Jeremy Lin, Omer Asik, Chandler Parsons and Greg Smith, who combined for just 28 points for a Rockets team in the playoffs for the first time since 2009.

After what coach Kevin McHale called a "nervy" start, Houston settled down, but never got their potent offense firing.

Durant said the Thunder, aiming to get back to the NBA finals after falling to Miami in last year's championship series, weren't trying to make a statement.

While in Miami LeBron "King" James and the reigning NBA champion Miami Heat opened their playoff campaign in regal style Sunday with a wire-to-wire 110-87 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

James fell two assists shy of a triple-double, scoring 27 points and grabbing 10 rebounds with eight assists as the

put the advantages they've earned to good use.

They held the Bucks to 42 percent shooting and out-rebounded them 46-31.

The bad news for all the teams hoping to knock Miami off their throne -- James thinks the Heat can do a lot better.

"We know we can play a better game," James said. "We didn't play our best game. We didn't shoot the ball like we're capable of doing from the outside. But the one thing that we did do was we shared the ball once again. We had 22 assists and we rebounded the ball, too."

The game was one of two Eastern Conference first-round series openers on Sunday. In the other, Paul George's triple-double fueled the Indiana Pacers' 107-90 victory over the Atlanta Hawks in Indianapolis.

The Hawks will try to level the series when the Pacers host game two on Wednesday.



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